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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/549,667	04/14/2000	Douglas K. Warner	5483.00	8856
25763	7590	10/12/2004	EXAMINER	
DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT 50 SOUTH SIXTH STREET MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-1498			CHEN, TE Y	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2161	

DATE MAILED: 10/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/549,667

Applicant(s)

WARNER ET AL.

Examiner

Susan Y Chen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 34-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 34-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Terminal Disclaimer

The terminal disclaimer filed on 08/09/2004 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of co-pending Patent Application No. 09/549,568 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Claims 34-42 are pending for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 34-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Li et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,631,496).

As to claim 34, Li et al. (hereinafter referred as Li) discloses a method of providing a context sensitive mapping of help informational items in an information retrieval system, comprising the steps of:

a) establishing a database [e.g., 100,101, 102, 121, etc. Fig. 1 and associated texts] having at least one record entry [e.g., the PowerBookmarks, col. 5, line 34], the at least one record entry defining relationship between an originating location from which a help request is originated and corresponding ones of the plurality of help informational items, and at least one record entry each including a relationship type which is based on characteristic similarities between the help informational items and a relationship strength value which is based on historical frequency of any related informational items being selected by a user [e.g., col. 5, lines 15 – col. 6, line 3; Fig. 7 A-B and associated texts];

b) detecting a subsequent user's selection of a help informational item from the originating location [e.g., the uniform query interface 200, Fig. 2; col. 7, lines 20 – 66; col. 8, lines 13-60];

c) presenting to the subsequent user any informational items related to the subsequent user's selection of the help informational item, which are sorted based on respective relationship types and relationship strength values [e.g., col. 8, lines 61-62; col. 10, lines 33-61; Fig. 14 and associated texts].

As to claim 35, except all the features recited in claim 34, Li further discloses the step to present a sorted list based on the respective relationship types and relationship strength values from which the subsequent user can select, thereby benefiting from a prior user's navigation of the selected help informational items [e.g., col. 5, lines 26-35; Fig. 10 and associated texts; col. 12, lines 57 – col. 13, lines 34].

As to claim 36, except all the features recited in claim 34, Li further discloses the step to updating the relationship strength value [e.g., the decay factor processing, col. 15, lines 13-33].

As to claims 37-42, these claims recite the same limitations as claims 34-36, in form of apparatus and computer readable storage medium product, hence are rejected for the same reason.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Czerwinski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,188,405) which discloses a system for providing a user interface which exploits spatial memory to objects.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan Y Chen whose telephone number is (703) 308-1155. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00-4:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on (703) 308-1436. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Susan Y Chen
Examiner
Art Unit 2171

October 4, 2004



UYEN LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER